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PRESS RELEASE

**ASIA REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT
COMMENCES IN DHAKA**

DHAKA, OCTOBER 5 -- Representatives of universities, businesses, foundations and governments from across Asia are gathering in Dhaka October 6-8 for the Asia Regional Higher Education Summit entitled “Higher Education’s Responses to Global Challenges.”

This Asia Regional Higher Education Summit is sponsored by the United States Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and co-hosted by the University of Dhaka and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. This Summit is a follow-up to the Global Higher Education Summit recently held in Washington, DC. The Washington summit was convened by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, and USAID Administrator and Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance Henrietta Fore. The Summit’s objective was to expand the role and impact of U.S. and foreign higher education institutions in worldwide social and economic development.

Approximately 130 university presidents and vice-chancellors, senior executives of businesses and foundations, and government officials have assembled for this important regional Summit to share strategies and explore opportunities for partnerships between universities, multinational firms and foundations.

The Summit will address challenges in food security, women’s entrepreneurship, teacher training and natural disaster management and will help spark new and innovative solutions to address key issues facing this region.

Countries that will be represented at the Summit include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States and Vietnam.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)